

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order 05-04-05

Issued at Nome, Alaska
July 22, 2005

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.
July 23, 2005

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. June 30, 2006
unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the 2005–2006 resident moose season within the central portion of Unit 22A which includes the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages. There is no nonresident moose season within this area.

All other moose seasons and bag limits in Unit 22A remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.045 (a) (20) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE** are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting moose in Unit 22A:

	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Units and Bag Limits		

(20)

Unit 22(A), that portion north of
and including the Tagoomenik and
Shaktoolik River drainages

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
antlers with 4 or more brow tines
on one side

Sept. 1–Sept. 14

Unit 22(A), that portion in the
Unalakleet River drainage and
all drainages flowing into
Norton Sound north of the
Golsovia River drainage and
south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik
River drainages**No open season**

No open season

Remainder of Unit 22(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:1 bull; or
1 antlered bullAug. 1–Sept. 30
Dec. 1–Dec. 31**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
antlers with 4 or more brow tines
on one side

Sept. 1–Sept. 30

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McKie Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Kate Persons
Area Biologist**JUSTIFICATION:**

Recent observations of low numbers of adult and yearling moose in Central Unit 22A have raised serious concerns about the status of the moose population in the Unalakleet area. In March 2005 biologists estimated 123 moose in a 2400 square mile census area between the Golsovia and Tagoomenik River drainages including the Unalakleet drainage. The estimated

moose density of 0.05 moose per square mile is very low and remains unchanged from a 2003 census. Low recruitment rates (9 yearlings per 100 adults) suggest few moose are surviving to reproductive age. Moose densities in Unit 22A have typically been lower than in other parts of Unit 22. In addition to this low density, further decline has occurred since 1989 when an estimate of a smaller area (1100 square miles) within the 2005 census area was estimated at 325 moose. The trend of a declining population and low recruitment requires eliminating human harvest to allow conservation of the herd. There is no nonresident harvest in Central Unit 22A and resident harvest in recent years has been almost exclusively by Unalakleet residents.

Unalakleet residents are very concerned about declining moose numbers in their area and have recently had poor moose hunting. At a recent meeting of the Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (SNSAC), department staff, committee members and Unalakleet residents discussed options for reducing hunting pressure and further protecting the declining moose population. The SNSAC supports this EO and they will be proposing additional restrictions for the Board of Game to consider at the fall 2005 meeting.